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Briefly Noted, Contributors, Magazines Received, Back Cover

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BRIEFLY NOTED

The Hawk Is Dying (1973) is the sixth and most successful novel by Harry Crews, one of the slicker exponents of the tight-and-right school of recent American fiction. Like its immediate predecessor, Car, this book is not extraordinary in layering of plot or character, or a flashiness of language. What Crews excels in is the full amplification of a single idea. There is little, if any, peripheral vision. The rewards in this method are in the creation of a landscape of obsession. The story in The Hawk Is Dying involves George Gattling who owns a car upholstery shop, his sister Precious, and her son Fred who only speaks a word at a time (“cork” or “toe”), and George's hippie girlfriend, Betty. Gattling's obsession is the “manning” of a hawk; the structure of the novel revolves around the training of the bird and its final acquiescence to a human master. The book's metaphor is not rich with the finer implications of language; it is instead raw and adrenal. With this novel, and in some ways with Car, Crews has hit his stride. If this is ultimately not a great novel, it is at least a solid and provocative piece of fiction.

Wisconsin Death Trip (1973) by Michael Lesy is a stunning experiment in historical journalism. The text, originally submitted as his doctoral dissertation, consists of excerpts from the Badger State Banner, during the years 1890-1910, and also of materials taken from the town archives and personal letters. Lesy proves to be a brilliant editor; his own commentary is sparse. In the arrangement of stories—beautifully offset by over 150 photographs (from a cache of around 30,000 taken by Charles Van Schaick)—there is a remarkable record of the particular spirit of these real people. These were desperate times, as Lesy shows; violence, madness, and suicide were not at all uncommon and were not treated in the media of the day as unusual or inexplicable. The newspaper accounts, Lesy writes: “turned grief inside out; they turned murderous sorrow outward toward the eyes of a crowd that could not only comfort by it, but, by participating in it, could be immunized against it.” A sample from the text of Wisconsin Death Trip:

A woman who gave her name as Wilson died in Chippewa Falls from a criminal operation performed upon herself. . . . Her brother took charge of her remains. The woman was young and pretty and visited every physician in Chippewa Falls to accomplish her object, but without success.

I believe this book is a landmark in counter-nostalgia. Read it as history, or read it simply as a novel, the subject of which is a town and a few thousand people who are not a great deal different from ourselves.

—D. L.
contributors

NEIL BALDWIN is a freelance writer living in Buffalo, NY. His translation of Rilke's French poems will be out sometime next year from Mushinsha Books, Tokyo. Another selection from this work appeared in American Poetry Review. MURRAY BAUMGARTEN and GABRIEL BERNS teach Comparative Literature and Spanish Literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz, respectively. They collaborated previously on a translation of Ramon Perez de Ayala's Belarminyo Apolonio. Another section of Miguel Delibes' novel appears in California Quarterly No. 6.

KEN BRIGGS is an undergraduate at the University of Montana.

REX BURWELL is a native of Loring, Montana, now living in San Diego where he edits Lemming and teaches poetry.

STEVEN CHRISTENSON is a recent graduate of the fiction workshop at the University of Montana. He is currently traveling in Mexico.

MIGUEL DELIBES is a popular Spanish novelist—recently elected to the Spanish Royal Academy. The excerpt published here is from Parabola del naufrago, 1969, perhaps Delibes' most experimental fiction to date.

ALBERT DRAKE teaches Creative Writing at Michigan State University. His story in this issue is part of a novel-in-progress; other sections have appeared in Northwest Review and Epoch. His story, "The Chicken Which Became A Rat," was included in the 1971 edition of Best American Short Stories.

QUINTON DUVAL is now in the MFA Program at the University of Montana. In the past year he has had work in CutBank and Poetry Northwest.

ALBERT GOLDBARTH has published widely in magazines of all sizes. He is currently at the University of Utah; his first full-length book, Coprolites, is forthcoming from New Rivers Press.

JOHN HAINES is again back from Alaska and will be teaching part of this year at the University of Washington. His new book, Leaves and Ashes, is due by Christmas.

LARRY HALES is a fine photographer, currently the photo-archivist of the State Library of New York. He lives in Albany with his wife, Julie, and daughter, Asia.

THOMAS JOHNSON lives in Memphis where he edits Stinktree. His chapbook, Footholds, from Ironwood Press, is reviewed in this issue.

GEORGE KEITHLEY teaches at California State University, Chico. His epic poem, The Donner Party, was published by Braziller in 1972. His second book, Song in a Strange Land, will be released this spring.

GREG KUZMA of Best Cellar Press and Pebble has had several small books published in the past year. A full-length book, The Buffalo Shoot, is due soon from the Basilisk Press.

GINNY LEINART is an August graduate of the University of Montana, now living in Dillon.

LYN LIFSHIN lives in Niskayuna, New York, and writes more poems than is humanly possible.

MICHAEL McCORMICK is in the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Montana and had work in the first issue of CutBank.
ANTONY OLDKNOW is a native of England, now living in Grand Forks, North Dakota. His work has appeared in many little magazines and anthologies in this country and Europe.

J. K. OSBORNE is traveling in Europe where he is collecting poems by young German writers for a forthcoming issue of Madrona.

SUSAN REA writes from Phoenixville, PA.

RAINER MARIE RILKE, 1875-1926, is probably Germany's most well-known poet. Two new translations of his Duino Elegies have appeared recently: by David Young in Field (No.'s 5-9), and by A Poulin, Jr. in American Poetry Review (Sept./Oct. 1973).

IRA SADOFF has recently had his first book, Settling Down, accepted by Houghton Mifflin.

DON STAP is in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Utah. His chapbook, Kristine, was issued by Westigan Review.

MARK VINZ edits Dacotah Territory from Moorhead, Minnesota.

PAUL ZARZYSKI is in the MFA Program at the University of Montana. He is from Hurley, Wisconsin and has had work appear in Hearse.
MAGAZINES RECEIVED

Apple, David Curry, ed., Box 2271, Springfield, IL 62705. 40 pp., $1/per issue. 4 issues/$4.


Cafe Solo, Glenna Luschei, ed., 1209 Drake Circle, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. 44 pp. $1.50/issue. $2.50/year.

Dacotah Territory, Mark Vinz, ed., PO Box 775, Moorhead, Minnesota 56560. 64 pp. $1/per issue. $2.50/three issues.

December, Curt Johnson, ed., Box 274, Western Springs, IL 60558. 280 pp. $2/per issue. $7/four issues.

The Dragonfly, Duane Ackerson, Box 147, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho 83201. 82 pp. $1/per issue. $3.50/four issues.

Hawaii Review, George Czarnecki, ed., Hemenway Hall, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822. 88 pp. $1.50/per issue. $3/year.

The New Salt Creek Reader, Ted Kooser, ed., 1720½ C St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68502. 46 pp. $1/issue. $3.50/four issues.

Pebble, Greg Kuzma, ed., 118 South Boswell Avenue, Crete, Nebraska 68333. 56 pp. $1.50/per issue.

Ploughshares, Box 529, Cambridge, MA 02139. 102 pp. $2/per issue. $8/four issues.

Saltillo, J. C. Wilson, ed., 201 Andrews Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508. 36 pp. $3/four issues.

Stinktree, Thomas Johnson, ed., PO Box 14762, Memphis, TN 38114. 48 pp. $1.50/per issue. $2.50/year.

The Unspeakable Visions of the Individual, Arthur and Glee Knight, eds., PO Box 439, California, PA 15419. 72 pp. $5/three issues.


Westigan Review, John Knapp II, Swetman Hall, State University College, Oswego, New York 13126. 40 pp. $.50/per issue. $2/four issues.